

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

On page 9, line 1, please delete the current heading "CLAIMS" and insert the following new heading:

--What is claimed is:--

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) An embossing station for an embossing apparatus which is provided for transferring a transfer layer (12) of an embossing film (14) on to an element to be embossed upon, in particular a flat element (16) to be embossed upon which is stable in respect of shape, wherein the embossing station (10) has two support rollers (18) which are spaced from each other and which are in mutually axis-parallel relationship and at least one deflection roller (22) spaced from the support rollers and in axis-parallel relationship with the support rollers (18), around which an embossing belt (24) is deflected, wherein an embossing section (20) of the embossing belt (24) is determined by the support rollers (18),

~~characterised in that~~ wherein

provided between the two support rollers (18) is a support body (32) which supports the embossing belt (24) and which has a sliding surface (34) which is in the tangential plane (36) connecting the two support rollers (18) together.

2. (Currently Amended) An embossing station as set forth in claim 1,
~~characterised in that~~ wherein the embossing belt (24) has a low-friction layer (42) at its inside which is towards the two support rollers (18) and the support body (32).

3. (Currently Amended) An embossing station as set forth in claim 1,
~~characterised in that~~ wherein a sliding belt (44) passes around the two support rollers (14), the embossing belt (24) being provided at the outside (46) of the sliding belt (44), which is remote from the support rollers (18).

4. (Currently Amended) An embossing station as set forth in claim 3,
~~characterised in that~~ wherein the sliding belt (44) has on a carrier (48) a low-friction coating (50) which is towards the two support rollers (18) and the sliding surface (34) of the support body (32).
5. (Currently Amended) An embossing station as set forth in claim 3 ~~or 4~~,
~~characterised in that~~ wherein the sliding belt can be tensioned around the two support rollers (18) by means of a tensioning device (52).
6. (Currently Amended) An embossing station as set forth in claim 1,
~~characterised in that~~ wherein the support body (32) has a gas-permeable porous flat element (54) by which the sliding surface (34) is formed.
7. (Currently Amended) An embossing station as set forth in claim 6,
~~characterised in that~~ wherein the gas-permeable porous element (54) closes a cavity (56) which is provided in the support body (32) and into which a compressed gas inlet (58) opens.
8. (Currently Amended) An embossing station as set forth in claim 6 ~~or claim 7~~,
~~characterised in that~~ wherein the gas-permeable porous flat element (54) has a main surface (62) which faces towards the embossing belt (24) and two laterally mutually oppositely disposed side surfaces (66) which are associated with the two mutually remote longitudinal edges (64) of the embossing belt (24), wherein in operation of the embossing station (10) a gas cushion (68) is formed between the embossing belt (24) and the gas-permeable porous surface element (54) of the support body (32).
9. (Currently Amended) An embossing station as set forth in claim 7, ~~or claim 8~~
~~characterised in that~~ wherein the support body (32) and/or the compressed gas inlet (58) are/is provided with a heating device (60).